

CONFIDENTIAL.]

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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th January 1902.

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FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hindi Bangarasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th January has heard that the present Amir will hold his coronation ceremony at the next *Nowroj* festival, and that on that occasion the Czar of Russia and the Amirs of Bokhara and Tashkand will send their envoys to Kabul, and that the notorious Hadda Mulla will be invited by the Amir. All this is, of course, against the wish of the British Government, to whom Afghanistan owes its present prosperity.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Jan. 6th, 1902.

2. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th January has heard that Ishaq Khan, one of the claimants to the throne of Kabul, who is now in Turkistan, on learning of the death of the Amir, applied to the Czar to help him in his attempt to invade Afghanistan. The Czar replied that the Russian Government would very soon undertake the invasion of that country. It is also said that Ishaq Khan is making great preparations for an invasion of Afghanistan.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 11th, 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a) — Police.

3. Referring to the severe sentences passed upon some *badmashes* by the District Judge of Mymensingh on conviction of the offence of outraging the modesty of a woman named Prasanna Namasudrani, of village Chattal, within the jurisdiction of the Badla thana, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th January says that even such severe punishment has failed to serve as a deterrent, and outrage cases are still very frequent in the district. Only a few of these cases come to the knowledge of the Courts, but in a majority of them the injured parties quietly put up with their wrong for fear of losing social prestige by exposure. In many of those cases again which come before the Courts, the delinquents escape punishment. The authorities ought to adopt some effectual measures for putting down such outrages.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 7th, 1902.

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January says that in December last one Jayram Bhattacharyya lost a bag containing nearly Rs. 240 in promissory notes and ornaments in the Seoraphuli station on the East Indian Railway, and duly lodged information of the loss in the Serampore police-station. A few days after the occurrence a plate-layer who was out on a trolley found a boy passing alongside the rail-road with a bag in his hand. He suspected foul play, and ordered two of his coolies to catch the boy, who ran to a neighbouring village. The plate-layer followed the boy to the village and with the help of the local chaukidar managed to get the bag out of the house of a relative of the boy. The bag contained things which corresponded with the things which Jayram Bhattacharyya had lost in the Seoraphuli railway station. The plate-layer sent the bag to the Police Sub-Inspector in Seoraphuli. All this happened on the 4th December last, but the police has made no investigation of the matter as yet.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

5. Referring to the case of Jahar Khan, town constable of Hooghly, who was prosecuted before Kumar Girindra Narayan Deb Bahadur, Joint-Magistrate of Hooghly, for desertion and was acquitted, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th January writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 11th, 1902.

On Jahar Khan's acquittal, Mr. Castle, District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly, wrote a letter to the District Magistrate saying that it was he himself who had instituted the proceedings against Jahar Khan under section 29 of Act V of 1861 and making the following observation:—

"The Joint-Magistrate who tried the case let Jahar Khan off on the certificate (the medical certificate which was submitted by the accused in court), and foolishly remarked that he considered the man should not have been prosecuted, at least for humanity's sake, as he was ill."

Now, the question is, was it right for the District Superintendent to apply the epithet 'foolishly' to what was done by the Joint-Magistrate in his judicial

A District Superintendent of Police criticising a judgment.

capacity? If so, would it also be right for a native District Superintendent of Police to similarly characterise a trial held by a European Joint-Magistrate? Should District Superintendents of Police make such remarks only on the native judiciary, or should they do so also on the European judiciary? These are questions which ought to be decided by the Government, because both Joint-Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police are its servants. If Government is of opinion that police criticism of trials made by Magistrates will not interfere with a proper administration of justice, we shall not object to District Superintendents of Police applying any epithet they like to trying Magistrates. It is necessary for Government to decide the question. If it says nothing in the present instance, its silence will be construed to be an approval of the conduct of the District Superintendent of Hooghly. If Government approves of that conduct, it should, to prevent misunderstanding in future and stop the mouth of the public, lay down a list of the epithets which District Superintendents may be allowed to use against Magistrates. This will relieve police officers of the trouble of seeking for epithets for use against Magistrates. The list should be a classified one, showing the epithets which may be used by District Superintendents, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Constables and Chaukidars respectively.

If Government thinks that Mr. Castle was wrong in criticising as he did, it will certainly punish the offender and prevent such things from happening in future.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

JYOTI,
Jan. 9th, 1902.

6. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 9th January says that Ashu Babu, the Deputy Magistrate of Chittagong, and the Munsif of South Raujan are in the habit of holding their Courts till 9 or 10 P. M. This causes great inconvenience and hardship to the parties and their witnesses.

SANJIVANI.
Jan. 9th, 1902.

7. At the late Civil Service dinner, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th January, Mr. Justice Rampini said that Civilians and District Judgeships. Civilians were unwilling to go into the Judicial Branch of the Civil Service, because the highest post

in the Judicial Service was not attainable by them. That may be so, but to induce Civilians to accept District Judgeships by throwing open the highest judicial post in the province, namely the post of the Chief Justice of the High Court, to them would lead to a perfect anarchy in consequence of frequent failures of justice. Mr. Rampini is himself a Civilian, and he naturally wishes to see Civilians appointed to the Law Membership of the Viceroy's Council and the Chief Justiceship of the High Court. He thinks that there are no worthier persons on this earth than the Indian Civilians.

The best way to induce Civilians to accept District Judgeships would be to decrease the salaries of posts on the executive side.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January says that on the 12th December two men, named Ambika and Hira Jogi, were sentenced by the Subdivisional Officer of Bongong in the Jessore district to undergo 15 days' rigorous imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs. 10 each. The fines were paid into the Court on the 21st December, but the local jail authorities were not informed of this fact by the Court till the 29th following. The poor prisoners had therefore to remain in jail up to 29th December, although they should have been set free on the 26th preceding.

HITAVADI.

9. The same paper says that the man who is a servant in the house of the Munsif of Amta in the Howrah district also holds the post of his Court peon. The man attends to his public duties for a very short time during the day, but draws a peon's full pay from the Government.

Sometimes the Munsif holds his Court at 9-30 A.M., and in the absence of the parties strikes off suits, and then goes home to dine and does not come back before 1-30 or 2 P.M. A graver complaint against him is that his daily requirements are not bought from the local bazar, but are collected from the offices of some zamindars living at places four or five miles from Amta.

10. The same paper says that Mr. Hart, the Subdivisional Officer of Maulavi Bazar in the Sylhet district, is in the habit of holding his Court till a very late hour in the evening. The suffering caused by this practice

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

Mr. Hart, Subdivisional Officer
of Maulavi Bazar, Sylhet.

to the parties who have to spend the chilly hours of a winter evening under a tree is easily conceivable. On the 15th Pous last Mr. Hart insulted a respectable man in his Court. The man's fault was that seeing Mr. Hart making faces at him as he was giving his evidence, he expressed himself in English. A great freak of Mr. Hart's is to make faces at witnesses.

11. The same paper says that in December last some people had to appear as witnesses in the mafassal camp of Mr.

Mr. Ward, Subdivisional Officer
of Chandpur.

Ward, the Subdivisional Officer of Chandpur. Owing to Mr. Ward's dislike of native shoes, all of them

were obliged to appear bare-footed before him. Again, he is in the habit of holding his Court till a very late hour in the evening. On the occasion referred to above a number of Muhammadans had to wait till 8 P.M. in his camp. The Mukhtar present informed him that the men had been fasting on account of the Ramjan, but to no effect.

12. Referring to the acquittal of Osman Ali, daroga, and Kailash Kerani of Noakhali, the same paper says that no body will be satisfied with the manner in which the case against the accused was tried by Babu Amrita Lal

The case against Osman Ali and
Kailash Kerani.

Mukhopadhyaya, Deputy Magistrate. Chintaharan Babu, a Mukhtar, had been summoned to give evidence in the case, but on his appearance in Court he was not required to go into the witness box. It is rumoured that Chintaharan Babu had with him a letter which if produced could reveal many secrets and throw a flood of light on the whole affair. The public may fairly ask why was Chintaharan Babu kept back from giving evidence in the case? Is this the way to remove the scandal and corruption of the Noakhali police brought to light by Mr. Pennell? People expected justice in this case, but justice has not been done.

HITAVADI.

(d) - Education.

13. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 9th January contains a paragraph criticising the list of text-books issued by the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, in the same way as the *Bangavasi* and the *Hitavadi* (see paragraphs 15 and 14).

BASUMATI,
Jan. 9th 1902.

The list of text-books for the
Presidency Division.

The Presidency Inspector's list
of text-books.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January says that the officiating Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, has forwarded to every school within his jurisdiction a list of the text-books to be taught in 1902.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

The list contains at its bottom a recommendation in the form of an advertisement to all Head Masters and Secretaries of Schools to the effect that D. N. Dhar's maps are the best of their kind. Such an advertisement should not have found a place in a list of text-books promulgated by an Inspector of Schools, even if D. N. Dhar's maps were really better than those printed by the best firms in England and America. Babu Sasi Bhushan Chattopadhyaya's maps are the maps best known in India, prized and admired by all the Indian Universities. Has it therefore been fair of the Inspector of Schools to recommend Dhar's maps without even mentioning those of Sasi Babu? Are Sasi Babu's maps entirely worthless compared with those of D. N. Dhar? It is not known whether in preparing the list the Inspector acted under proper authority, but it is known that it is the rule with Secretaries of Schools to select text-books from among those which have been approved by the Director of Public Instruction.

It is a wonder that none of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's and Akshay Kumar Datta's books, with the single exception of the former's *Varnaparichay*, have been included in the list. Romesh Chandra Dutt's History of India, Ishan Chandra Ghosh's History of India, and another History of India have been recommended as text-books in that subject. Shastri's history is taught in most schools, but it is not mentioned in the list. Romesh Chandra Dutt's history is seldom taught in any school. Ishan Babu's history will therefore be

taught in all the schools in the Presidency Division in 1902, and Babu Ishan Chandra Ghosh is a servant of the Education Department!

Two old books, one by Tarini Charan Chattopadhyaya and another by Shyama Das Majumdar, published five and twelve years ago, respectively, have been recommended as text-books in Geography. Keeping in view the political changes which are taking place almost every year, books on Geography ought to be always brought up to date, as far as possible. For this reason almost all the schools in Bengal have been using Babu Sasi Bhushan Chattopadhyaya's Geography for some years past. It is a matter of wonder that this book has not found a place in the list. Again Nilmani Chakravarti's Geography of Bengal, which has been recommended for the 3rd class of Middle Schools by the Director of Public Instruction, has been recommended for the 1st class of Middle Schools by the officiating Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division. In fact, the list prepared and circulated by the Inspector is extremely faulty and requires immediate revision.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 11th, 1902.

15. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th January is astonished to see the list of text-books prescribed for the vernacular schools of the Presidency Division for the year of text-books.

The Presidency Inspector's list 1902. In literature, all works by Vidyasagar and Akshay Kumar Dutta have been excluded, with the exception of *Varna Parichay* by the former. The only work of Akshay Kumar which has found a place in the list is his *Padartha Vidya*, which has been prescribed as text-book in science. The literary works of these two authors have been excluded in favour of bad text-books by incompetent authors.

In history, the text-books prescribed are Mr. R. C. Dutt's History, Babu Isan Chandra Ghosh's History, and another book, whilst Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri's excellent book has been excluded. Babu Isan Chandra's book being prescribed as the only alternative text-book with two others which are not in much use, will, in fact, be accepted everywhere as the only text-book on the subject.

But the greatest wonder is excited by the manner in which text-books in geography have been selected. The text-books which have been prescribed in this subject are the late Tarini Charan Chatterji's Geography, Babu Syama Das Majumdar's Geography, and a certain Geography of Bengal, whilst Babu Sasi Bhushan Chatterji's *Bhugol Pravesa* has been excluded. The edition of the first named book available was printed in 1897, and Majumdar's book was last printed in the Bengali year 1286, that is, twelve years ago. The geography of the world is now changing every day; the geography of America, for instance, has undergone a thorough change within the last five years, and the geography of the other continents, too, has undergone very many changes within recent years. It is not, therefore, right to prescribe in Geography any text-book which is not corrected every year. Babu Sasi Bhushan's book *Bhugol Pravesa* is the only geography in Bengali which is corrected up to date. The Geography of Bengal which has been prescribed as a text-book for the Middle Scholarship Examination is not a text-book approved for middle schools. In the list of text-books for vernacular schools approved by the Director of Public Instruction, this book has been prescribed as a text-book for the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination. To prescribe it for the Middle Scholarship Examination is, therefore, a serious mistake.

As regards the wall maps to be used in schools, though Babu Sasi Bhushan Chatterji's maps are the best and most largely used throughout India and Ceylon, and have secured praise from the Lieutenant-Governor himself, a footnote in the Presidency Division list of text-books informs all Head Masters and Secretaries of Schools that D. N. Dhar's maps are the best.

The Inspector of Schools had no right to make such a suggestion as this.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

16. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Water scarcity in the Nadia 8th January draws attention to the severe water district. scarcity prevailing in the Nadia district and specially in its Chuadanga subdivision, in consequence of the silting up of the Mathabhanga river. The people of the villages Gadia

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 8th, 1902.

Saraberia, Hudpara, &c., have to get their water from a distance of two or three miles.

The Nadia District Board ought to dredge the *chur* in the Mathabhang and excavate tanks and wells in the villages which urgently require them, and re-excavate old tanks where necessary.

17. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 9th January draws the attention of the authorities to the oppressive exactions levied by the tolls and ferry *ghats* in the *ijardars* of tolls and ferries in the Chittagong district.

Complaints made against them to the District Board produce no effect. Some time ago Babu Uma Charn Dhar, the Sub-Overseer of Patia, had occasion to pass by the toll *ghat* in Patia in a boat. The *ijardar* of the *ghat* realised from the boatman 8 annas instead of 1 anna as toll. The Sub Overseer reported the matter to the District Board, but to no effect. Whenever complaints are made against these *ijardars*, the clerks of the District Board give them certificates of good conduct. Are not people justified in suspecting that these certificates are not given by the clerks with a clean conscience? The rule is that ferry-boats must be of a different colour from other boats, that there must be rest-houses on both sides of a river at a ferry, and that every ferry-boat must have a *manji* and two boatmen. But none of these conditions are observed by *ijardars*. The authorities should inquire into this important matter.

Jyoti,
Jan. 9th, 1901.

(1)—Questions affecting the land.

18. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th January complains of the oppression by *patwaris* in the Kagmari pargana of the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. The *patwaris* are dispossessing the owners of *brahmotter*, *derottar* and other rent-free gift lands of their holdings and appropriating them to their own use. Complaints before the zamindar produce no result, as evidence against *patwaris* is not procurable, the villagers fearing the *patwaris* more than they fear even the zamindar.

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 7th, 1902.

19. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th January says that after the Government's partial treatment of two villages in the Midnapore khas mahal. 8th January says that after the Government's attention has been repeatedly drawn to the miserable condition of the raiyats of seven parganas in the khas mahal in the Midnapore district, it has been pleased to remit the entire rent for the Bengali year 1308 and all arrears of rent for the preceding two years in only the two villages Itaberia and Haridrachak. This partiality to only two villages, when many others are in a similar condition, has astonished every body. Will the Government try to explain why the favour shown to Itaberia and Haridrachak has not also been shown to the other villages? Government's equality of treatment of its subjects becomes indeed quite incomprehensible when one sees the residents of two villages smiling in joy and those of the neighbouring villages weeping in sorrow.

*SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,*
Jan. 8th, 1902.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January says that the condition of the raiyats in most of the *abads* in the Sunderbans is made extremely deplorable by the extortionate habits and unsympathetic disposition of their proprietors. These proprietors care nothing for the welfare of their tenants. Embankments may give way and crops may be destroyed, but the landlord must have his dues. He realises from his tenants a tax for the avowed purpose of raising and maintaining embankments for the protection of their fields from floods and salt water, but in practice he does very little to keep them in good condition. Sometimes he forces tenants to relinquish their tenures by cutting their embankments and thereby getting their fields submerged two or three years successively. Afterwards he makes great profit by the *salami* obtained by the re-settlement of these tenures with other people.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

Is no one responsible for the terrible loss suffered by the raiyats in the Sunderbans on account of the destruction of their crops caused by the last cyclone? The bad condition of embankments generally and want of sufficiently high embankments in many places caused the *abads* to be swept away, and many lives were lost. The existence of embankments is an essential condition

of all successful cultivation in the Sunderbans, and their want is the chief cause of the distress of the raiyats living there.

It is a matter of great regret, as it ought to be a matter of shame, to the landlords concerned that the condition of most of the embankments south of Diamond Harbour is extremely bad. In many *abads* the rate of rent has been raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 3, but nothing has been done to improve the local embankments. The matter is a serious one and ought to receive the attention of the Commissioner of the Sunderbans.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Jan. 8th, 1902.

21. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 8th January says that Government intends to close the Melak sluice-gate in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district. Of the two sluice-gates in the sea-dyke

surrounding the part of the country under the Ramnagar thana, the Melak sluice-gate is the more important as containing three large culverts. One of the main causes of distress caused by the failure of crops in the Contai subdivision is the want of a sufficient number of culverts within it for the proper draining off of water. It is strange, therefore, that instead of constructing new sluice-gates Government is going to demolish an existing and important one.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January says that recently a train was detained in the Kampurhat station on the East Indian Railway through the fault of the check-diary.

HITAVADI.

Tampering with a railway station
the General Assistant, made a note of this fact in his diary. But Mr. Carter, the Station Master, was enraged at this. The page on which the note had been written was torn off and the other matters contained in it were re-written on another page by Ismail. The Railway authorities should inquire into the matter.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 13th, 1902.

23. The same paper says that the chief grievance of native passengers on Indian railways is that they are packed up in large numbers in small compartments. Last year Dr. Banks, the Emigration Superintendent, reported to the Government that the cholera which raged so furiously last year among the coolies in Asansol was mainly due to over-packing in railway carriages. It is not known what Government has said in reply to Dr. Banks, but nothing has as yet been done to remedy the evil complained of. Mr. Robertson, the President of the Railway Commission, has directed his attention to this important matter. But both the railway authorities and Government are silent. Thousands of innocent people are being daily treated like so many beasts. Had the sufferers been natives of any other civilised country, the matter would not have passed so smoothly as it is passing in India.

24. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th January complains of the extremely bad condition of the road between the Nator railway station and the Chatni river in the Rajshahi district. The road possesses a good traffic all the year round, but in the rainy season there is a great increase of the traffic caused by that borne by bullock carts. But nothing is done to keep the road in good condition. Out of the three bridges over it, two are made of bamboos. The condition of these two bridges becomes so bad in the rains that even men do not dare pass over them, not to speak of carts and animals. Mud knee-deep accumulates in many places on the road. The Chairman of the District Board is requested to look to the matter.

(h)—*General.*

CHARU MIKIR,
Jan. 7th, 1902.

25. A correspondent of the *Charu Mikir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th January prays for the establishment of a post office at Simla in the Mymensingh district, as the village is an important one and is situated at a distance of five or six miles from its present post office at Gopalpur.

RANGPUR
DIPRAKASH,
Jan. 9th, 1902.

26. The *Rangpur Diprakash* [Kakina, Rangpur] of the 9th January complains that the mails have not reached Kakina regularly or punctually ever since they have begun

A postal complaint.

to be carried by the Bengal Duars Railway. Formerly, the Calcutta mails used to be received in Kakina in two days, but now they take three, four or even more days to reach that place. Government should not have contracted for the carriage of mails with a railway which cannot carry them punctually.

27. The *Sanjirani* [Calcutta] of the 9th January has the following:

The proposal of Government to take over some sea-ports from Native States.

Immediately after Lord Curzon had visited and carefully inspected the sea-ports in the Native States of Gujurat, Cutch, Kochin and Travancore during his winter tour of 1901, the Foreign

Jan. 9th, 1902.

Department expressed a wish to extend its influence over those ports, and the Governor of Bombay requested the Native Princes concerned to hand over to the British Government the right of collecting customs at the ports, on the ground that this would facilitate the collection of British revenue. The Princes, however, have expressed their unwillingness to give up a right which they have enjoyed from time immemorial. But it is certain that these ports will before long come under British influence. The suggested transfer of the ports would certainly serve the convenience of the British Government. But so would a transfer of all Native States in their entirety to the British Government and a passing of the whole world under one sovereign. But should justice be sacrificed for the sake of convenience? The Government should coolly consider why the Native States should comply with the request now made to them, though it may be difficult for it to give up its resolution. In native households, the members are not often found to remove to a place of concealment all good and valuable things in the house when a visit from their spiritual guide is expected, lest they should excite the latter's cupidity. Are the Native States to do the same with reference to the Government? To tell the truth, the Native Princes will be very much dissatisfied with the Government if it takes the ports from them. Is Lord Curzon's real motive in proposing to take the ports the alleged administrative convenience or the fortifying of the country against foreign invasion on which His Excellency is said to be intent?

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th January learns from the *Weekly Chronicle* newspaper of Assam, that the Government

Rumoured deputation of Sir Charles Rivaz to Assam.

of India has sent Sir Charles Rivaz, the Home Member, to Shillong to inquire into the quarrel

HITAVADI,
Jan. 10th, 1902.

between Mr. Cotton and the Assam planters, and that the inquiry is being held by Sir Charles in secret. If this be true, the action of the Government of India cannot be defended, because it is great injustice to Mr. Cotton to hold an inquiry in his absence into matters in which he is directly concerned. Will it redound to the glory of the Government to be led away by the agitation of a number of white men to insult a high official?

29. The same paper says that extra Departmental Agents of the

Grievances of Extra Departmental Agents of the Post Office.

Post Office suffer great injustice under the Postal Department. They are not entitled to privilege

HITAVADI.

leave and pension, and they are not allowed to insure their lives in the Postal Department. Their salary ranges from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10, but they have to deposit security and perform duties of great responsibility. The salaries of many of them are less than those of the peons serving under them. This makes the peons refractory. People condescend to become Extra Departmental Agents of the Post Office in the hope of some day becoming post masters. But it is generally seen that their claims are ignored by the Postal Department. Their grievances should be soon removed, else respectable people will not accept service as extra Departmental Agents of the post office.

30. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th January says that Lord

Lord Curzon.

Curzon's famine policy and his reinstatement of

Mr. Dhisalal who was dismissed from the service

of the Indor Residency led the people of India to believe that he was in full sympathy with them, but from the manner in which His Excellency disposed of the appeal of one Bisu Mull who had been expelled from the Dinapur Cantonment, they have understood that he is not after all better than a *Badshah*, and that he does not possess true sympathy with the poor Indian people.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 11th, 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
JAN. 8th, 1902.

Cloth manufacture in India—its
drawback.

31. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th January has the following :—

The attention of the educated community of India has of late been directed to the use of the products of indigenous art and industry, and attempts are being made to produce and encourage the sale of indigenous cloth. The industrial exhibition which was held in Beadon Square under the auspices of the National Congress afforded a proof of the increasing interest the people of India are taking in country-made goods. People were delighted to see the exhibition, but it did not excite much hope in their mind. Cloth manufacturing industry is the only industry which can bring sufficient money to the country and check its impoverishment. But the country will gain nothing by manufacturing cloth, no matter in what way, with foreign yarn. But native yarn, as many of the exhibitors said, is not at all available, and weavers here have to depend entirely upon foreign yarn. No country-made yarn was exhibited. Foreign yarn is so highly priced that native weavers can scarcely earn more than seven or eight rupees a month by manufacturing cloth with it, and it is impossible for Indian cloth manufactured with foreign yarn to compete with cloth manufactured in Europe. Unless, therefore, India can manufacture her own yarn, the mere use of the fly-shuttle will do her no good. The fly-shuttle suggested by Mr. Havell has, the writer has heard, been long in use in some places in the Malda district, but without any appreciable result.

SANSIVANI,
Jan. 9th, 1902.

New duties of the National
Congress.

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th January exhorts the supporters of the Indian National Congress not to go to sleep now that the year's meeting is over, but to exert themselves and take steps to awaken the masses to the importance of the Congress. The Calcutta Congress Committee should appoint four representatives, one for Bengal, one for Bihar, one for Orissa, and one for Assam, each of whom should invite some energetic and dutiful men from each district and subdivision in his province to form district committees and subdivisional committees. These committees, again, should form village committees, each village committee being representative of a number of important villages. The duties of the village committees should be as follows :—

- (1) To relieve distress.
- (2) To render medical help to poor villagers.
- (3) To make arrangements for water-supply.
- (4) To improve village sanitation by the removal of jungle and refuse and by the reclamation of low, marshy lands.
- (5) To instruct cultivators in new methods of cultivation and in the rearing and tending of cattle, and to help them in these matters.
- (6) To encourage carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers, &c., to improve their respective arts.
- (7) To check the oppressions which are committed upon villagers in connection with the Cattle Trespass Act and the assessment and realisation of the chaukidari tax.
- (8) To see that the police do not oppress villagers.
- (9) To arbitrate in civil and criminal cases.
- (10) To establish banks for lending money to villagers at a moderate rate of interest.
- (11) In cases of oppression by the zamindars' amla, to try to check such oppression by bringing it to the notice of the zamindars or by some other means.
- (12) To take steps for the physical, moral and intellectual education of village boys and girls.

The duties of subdivisional committees should be—

- (1) To help the village committees generally in their work.
- (2) To supervise the working of the village committees.
- (3) To hold annual *mela*s for the purpose of encouraging the arts and industries of the subdivision; to take measures for improving the

condition of the cattle; to provide facilities for the literary and physical training of the people.

- (4) To keep an eye on the work of the Subdivisional Magistrate and the subdivisional police, and to bring their wrong-doings to the notice of the higher authorities.
- (5) To collect and send to the district committees the papers of all criminal cases in which failure of justice takes place in consequence of the combination of judicial and executive functions.

The duties of the district committees may be as follows:—

- (1) To receive the monthly reports of the village and subdivisional committees and to render general help to those committees in every sphere of their work.
- (2) To publish the reports of cases in which failure of justice takes place in consequence of the combination of judicial and executive functions.
- (3) To impart political and industrial education to the people through the agency of really able and wise men.
- (4) To send a monthly report to the Calcutta Congress Committee.

If the work of the Congress is carried on on this line, a new life will be imparted to the country in the course of only a year. Bengal will soon see the dawn of an auspicious day if the Calcutta Congress Committee can see its way to spend four or five thousand rupees every year on this work.

33. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 9th January says that in criticising the Presidential address delivered by Mr. Wacha in the last Indian National Congress, the *Pioneer* cynically remarks that all that he said on the occasion had long ago been said by Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt. Whether the *Pioneer* means to say that Mr. Wacha's speech was not worth much, or to show that the subjects discussed by him were all old ones which had before been discussed with great ability by Romesh Chunder Dutt is not clear. But, whoever, the speaker, Romesh Chunder Dutt or Wacha, it remains to be proved that all that they said was wrong. The question is still an open one, and the grievances complained of cannot be barred by limitation. When people die of hunger it is useless to discuss who created death, but every means should be taken to save the lives of the hungry.

34. The same paper says that the prospects of Indian art and industry depend on the sale of country-made articles. Foreign-made articles can be obtained in almost every place on the earth, but even the existence of an article which is manufactured in India may not be known except by a few men. This state of things is caused by the poverty of Indian manufacturers and their lack of capital. Again, different places in India producing different articles should have trade relations with each other and make a mutual interchange of those articles.

Articles labelled "Made in Germany" are sold at prices lower than those demanded for native-made goods. Poor people cannot afford to be patriotic by buying country-made articles at double prices. In order, therefore, to enable indigenous articles to compete successfully with foreign products, foreign methods of production must be adopted in India. So long as that is not done there is very little hope for Indian art and industry.

35. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th January says that at the last sitting of the National Congress in Calcutta, the Congress *pandal* was more overcrowded than had been the case in any preceding year. Since it is a gathering of the politicians of the Indian Empire, every one, as a matter of fact, felt curiosity to have a look at it. The Government up to the present time has not directed its attention to the prayers of the Congress. But it will gradually so develop itself that the Government will come to think that its prayers are worth listening to.

BASUMATI,
Jan. 9th, 1902.

BASUMATI

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 11th, 1902.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Jan. 1st, 1902.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 1st, 1902.

SAMVADVAHAKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1902.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Jan. 4th, 1902.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

36. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 1st January is of opinion that authors or publishers of vernacular school books, who under the new rules are required to submit English translations of the same with the vernacular originals, may be allowed a further extension of time to enable them to submit their productions without any unnecessary stress or haste.

37. The Puri correspondent of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 1st January states that Mr. Nathan, while Collector-Magistrate of Puri, directed his attention to the official abuses or misdemeanours which prevailed in several departments and which would have been entirely removed if he had been allowed to remain in the district for a longer period. The correspondent states that he was dutiful and laborious and always desired to further the interests of his district.

38. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 2nd January regrets that the telegraph and railway offices refuse to receive the King's coins for 1840, and this is a source of annoyance and serious inconvenience to the public.

Railway passengers have often been seen to miss trains simply on account of having coins of 1840, which the Railway office would not receive, and which they had no means of replacing with other coins. The writer observes that Government should issue a circular to those departments to receive those coins under certain useful reservations.

39. Referring to the statement of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] that Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadur of Balasore, an Honorary Magistrate, was in charge of that district during the last Christmas holidays, when

all responsible officers, including the District Magistrate, had left the station on leave, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 4th January observes that this procedure, though unprecedented, indicates that the Raja enjoys the absolute confidence of the high officials.

40. Referring to the injunction issued on Maulavi Sahabudeen, a learned man of Delhi, who, on his temporary visit to Cuttack, was going to deliver a lecture on "English education with or without religion" at Baksibazar in Cuttack on the morning of the 28th December

last in the presence of a large audience, by the Cuttack cantonment authorities prohibiting him to deliver the notified lecture on the ground that its delivery was calculated to create a breach of the public peace, the same paper observes that the procedure was an undignified one and was due to the bigotry of the orthodox section of the Cuttack Muhammadan community, who, believing the lecturer to be a man of liberal views, moved the cantonment authorities on insufficient grounds and succeeded in the unseemly work of gagging the mouth of a foreigner from whom the audience had expected much in the shape of valuable hints and instructions. The writer observes that the procedure was a wrong one, inasmuch as the Police had power to stop the lecture at any stage, provided it proved what it had been anticipated to be by the hostile section of the Muhammadan community.

41. Referring to the reply which the District Board of Balasore gave to its Jajpur correspondent, who had brought it to the notice of the Board that a particular man was levying tolls at exorbitant rates on

passengers who crossed the High Level Canal near mauza Parvati on the branch road joining the Grand Trunk Road at Chatabar point with the Jajpur town, and who would not produce his authority to levy tolls when asked to do so, the same paper points out that the reply was a vague and curt one, and showed that the District Board shirked its clear duty, which was to state in precise terms whether the particular individual was authorized by it to levy tolls at the rates complained against, and to prosecute the man criminally if he had acted in violation of the provisions of the existing law on the subject. Instead of doing this, the Board has asked the correspondent to prosecute the

Levy of an illegal toll in the
Balasore district.

man criminally without saying whether the man was doing a right or a wrong thing, or whether he had the countenance of the Board in what he did. The writer states that it is unjust to charge ferry rates for crossing the High Level Canal at any point, and it is unusual to charge such rates at Parvati, while crossing that canal at other points is made free by the Irrigation Department. The writer hopes that the matter will attract the attention of the higher authorities.

42. The same paper is of opinion that an exhibition of the products of Indian art and manufacture in connection with

The industrial exhibition in connection with the National Congress.

the annual meeting of the Indian National Congress has proved successful in every way and has encouraged the exhibitors to be more active and

inventive in future. The writer hopes that the spirit in which the exhibition was inaugurated will be appreciated and encouraged by every section of the Indian community.

ASSAM PAPERS.

43. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 31st December says that the present

The system of rent collection in Cachar.

system of collecting the rents of the 25 parganas in the Cachar district in only three principal tahsil offices at Cachar, Katigara and Hailakandi

Utkal Dipika,
Jan. 4th, 1902.

SILCHAR,
Dec. 31st, 1901.

is not only expensive to Government because a tahsildar on a good pay is maintained at each of these offices, but is also costly and troublesome to the raiyats. Raiyats have to come long distances to pay their rent and have not unoften to stay a day or two at the tahsil office, feeding and lodging themselves at their own expense before their rent is received. The least costly way of collecting rent, and the way that would be the most convenient for raiyats, would be to establish ten or twelve cutcherries near police thanas or outposts, to keep in each of them a muharrir and some two or three peons, and place all these cutcherries under a Sub-Deputy Collector or extra Assistant Commissioner and under the general supervision of the Revenue Superintendent. It is hoped that Mr. Cotton will make such an arrangement for the collection of rent before he retires.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th January, 1902.

the whole, a quiet, low-lying
old town of brick and stone,
where not a single tree
exists. The people are
all very poor & dressed
dull brownish grey colour.

At about 2 P.M. we
arrived in another
village, the houses
of which were built
out of large stones,
and were very tall &
thin.

At 3 P.M. we reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow, where we
had dinner at a
small inn.

At 4 P.M. we started
again, and reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again at 5 P.M.

At 6 P.M. we reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again, and
stayed there all night.

At 7 A.M. we started
again, and reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again at 8 A.M.

At 9 A.M. we reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again, and
stayed there all day.

At 10 A.M. we started
again, and reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again at 11 A.M.

At 12 M. we reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again, and
stayed there all day.

At 1 P.M. we started
again, and reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again at 2 P.M.

At 3 P.M. we reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again, and
stayed there all day.

At 4 P.M. we started
again, and reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again at 5 P.M.

At 6 P.M. we reached
the village of Tschu-
tchow again, and
stayed there all day.